

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for treatment to reduce the extent of cutaneous scarring on the skin which comprises applying across a wound on the surface of the skin during wound repair a non-woven ~~tissue-fabric~~ comprised of a 75% benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid, wherein 75% of the carboxylic group of hyaluronic acid are benzyl esterified, and the remaining carboxylic groups are free or salified optionally in association with at least one additional pharmacologically or biologically active compound.

4. (Currently Amended) An efficacious method for reducing the extent of wounds to the skin comprising applying to the wound an effective amount of a non-woven ~~tissue-fabric~~ comprising at least a 75% benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid, wherein 75% of the carboxylic group of hyaluronic acid are benzyl esterified, and the remaining carboxylic groups are free or salified optionally in combination with at least one additional pharmacological or biologically active compound.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said wound reduction results in reduced normotrophic scarring.

6.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the pharmacologically or biologically active substance is an antibiotic, growth factor, antimicrobial, antimicrobial, antiviral agent, disinfectant, phospholipid or anaesthetic.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating cutaneous scarring of the skin which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective cutaneous scar treatment amount of a 75% benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid, wherein 75% of the carboxylic group of hyaluronic acid are benzyl esterified, and the remaining carboxylic groups are free or salified.

15.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is an ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 75% of the carboxy functions are esterified with benzyl alcohol and the remaining carboxylic groups of hyaluronic acid are salified to form an inorganic salt.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of cutaneous scarring on the skin which comprises applying to the treatment area an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition in the form of a non-woven ~~tissue-fabric~~ comprising a 75% benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid, wherein 75% of the carboxylic group of hyaluronic acid are benzyl esterified, and the remaining carboxylic groups are free or salified.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said extent of normotrophic scarring is reduced by 40% compared to areas treated with hyaluronic acid.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivative is a benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid wherein 75% of the carboxy functions are esterified with benzyl alcohol and the remaining carboxylic groups of hyaluronic acid are salified to form an inorganic salt.

23. (New) The method according to any one of the claims 3, 14 and 18, wherein said inorganic salt is a salt with an alkaline or alkaline earth metal.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said salt is a salt with potassium, sodium and ammonium.

25. (New) The method according to any one of claims 3, 14, and 18 which comprises a single application of said woven fabric to said skin.